United Nations A/C.4/58/SR.10

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
19 February 2004
English
Original: Russian

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 10th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 17 October 2003, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Loedel ..... (Uruguay)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 85: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Haraguchi** (Japan) said that, during their more than 50-year history, United Nations peacekeeping operations had taken a variety of forms, ranging from the traditional to the multifunctional; that demonstrated the flexible manner in which they had been deployed, based on the situation in each specific case. It was essential to continue to emphasize flexibility and to study constantly how the modalities of peacekeeping operations could be improved.

2. Support for the consolidation and building of peace was one of the pillars of Japan's diplomatic policy. Accordingly, it was actively participating in peacekeeping operations and other joint international activities. Together with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Japan had conducted a seminar on civil-military cooperation in peace operations, which was one of the key issues in multifunctional peacekeeping operations. It was to be hoped that the results of the seminar, combined with the experience acquired and lessons learned from past operations, would serve future peacekeeping activities well.

3. Concerning more robust peacekeeping operations, his delegation agreed that the fundamental principle in such cases was consent — of the host countries and their peoples — which was key to the success of such operations and to the consolidation of peace. Also, with respect to peacekeeping operations, regional initiatives could be very effective; his delegation welcomed the activities of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union in West and Central Africa and supported the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which stressed peace and security as prerequisites for development. While it was very important to deploy peacekeeping operations in a flexible manner, according to the specific situations in individual regions and countries, it was also crucial that Member States should not have to bear an excessive budgetary burden in respect of those operations, and, in crafting resolutions on the budgets of new peacekeeping operations, special care should be taken to ensure transparency, particularly vis-à-vis the major financial contributors. His delegation also wished to emphasize the importance of increasing the cost-effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

4. Given the fundamental importance of ensuring the security and safety of personnel participating in peacekeeping operations, his delegation would cooperate with DPKO and the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator on security issues and would contribute to the establishment of security mechanisms that would benefit all Member States.

5. Lastly, concerning the recruitment of DPKO staff, he emphasized the continuing need to implement General Assembly resolution 57/318 of 18 June 2003, which expressed concern about the imbalance in the geographical representation of Member States in DPKO and urged the Secretary-General to take immediate measures to improve the representation of underrepresented and unrepresented Member States in future recruitment and to submit a report on the criteria used for recruitment to all support account posts.

6. **Mr. Kim** Sam-hoon (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation attached the utmost importance to peacekeeping operations. Their performance served as an important yardstick by which countries and peoples judged the relevance and credibility of the United Nations. The Republic of Korea participated regularly in peacekeeping operations. It noted that, through the Secretariat's efforts to strengthen the overall capacity and improve the management of peacekeeping operations, as well as through the experience it had acquired, DPKO was now better equipped to deploy complex, multidimensional peacekeeping operations.

7. His delegation wished to touch on some important issues concerning the reform of peacekeeping operations. Such operations were distinguished by their complex and multidimensional character, since their aim was not only to prevent violence and hostilities but also to ensure a lasting and durable peace. Accordingly, post-conflict peace-building had become an integral part of peacekeeping mandates. However, taking into account the greater complexity and scope of the goals and tasks set in Security Council mandates, there was a need for those mandates to be realistic, tailored to particular situations and backed by adequate capacity and resources. Comprehensive peacekeeping required not only enormous resources but also participation by diverse actors in the field, and the importance of close

cooperation and coordination among those actors could not be overestimated.

8. United Nations peacekeepers should be sent only to those conflict areas where their presence could make a difference. It was necessary to develop benchmarks to measure the progress of peacekeeping operations, to establish exit strategies as part of the planning for new missions and, in situations requiring prompt and robust responses, to enlist the help of multinational forces led by coalitions of the willing or regional organizations. New supplementary mechanisms should be developed to coordinate the activities of such forces with United Nations peacekeeping operations.

9. Given the vital role of regional organizations in peacekeeping, his delegation wished to emphasize the importance of enhancing African peacekeeping capabilities for the purpose of maintaining regional peace and security. It also recognized the need for strengthened coordination and division of labour in peacekeeping between the United Nations and regional organizations.

10. Quality training, equipment and discipline were vital to the success of any peacekeeping operation. In that connection, his delegation wished to underscore the need for developed countries to contribute well-trained and well-equipped contingents. It welcomed the efforts of DPKO to enhance the strategic deployment stocks at Brindisi. It also wished to stress the need for pre-deployment training for peacekeepers on such issues as the code of conduct and the responsibilities of peacekeepers and for awareness-raising with local communities.

11. His delegation supported the development by DPKO, in consultation with Member States, of global training norms. It also noted with satisfaction the significant improvement in the interaction between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries and looked forward to further improvements in the flow of information and to strengthened cooperation.

12. His delegation believed that there was a need to consult with Member States that were not members of the Security Council but bore a significant share of the expenses for peacekeeping when proposals for budget increases were discussed. Lastly, he expressed deep appreciation for the work of peacekeepers and paid tribute to the memory of those who had lost their lives while serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

13. **Mr. Sharma** (Nepal) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. He noted with satisfaction the progress made in the six priority areas and underlined the need for consistent and concerted efforts to advance further.

14. Nepal was committed to the maintenance of international peace and security and had frequently contributed and would continue to contribute troops and specialists for work in hot spots in various parts of the globe.

15. There was an urgent need to review measures for the security and safety of United Nations personnel and humanitarian workers, particularly in the light of the terrorist attack in Baghdad, which his delegation strongly condemned, as well as in the context of the implementation of the robust peacekeeping concept.

16. As greater experience was acquired of tackling conflicts in different parts of the world, peacekeeping itself was becoming more complicated and multifaceted, requiring operations with tailored specificities; in order to ensure long-term success, there was a need for capable civilian and civilian police contributions, as well as a strong military component.

17. Speedier reimbursement of costs to troop-contributing countries was a very pressing issue, since delays in reimbursement, as well as lack of capacity for self-sustainment, severely limited the capacity of least developed countries, including Nepal, to participate in peacekeeping. Such Member States should be helped to bridge the resources gap, including by using the strategic deployment stocks.

18. Notwithstanding the success of United Nations peacekeeping efforts in the Balkans and Sierra Leone, for example, peacekeeping must be continuously improved, particularly taking into account the recommendations and principles set forth in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. Troop-contributing countries must take centre stage in all United Nations peacekeeping activities.

19. Problems such as poverty, disease and discrimination could not be forgotten, when undertaking peacekeeping in conflict zones, and it was necessary to take a holistic approach in order to ensure

a smooth transition from peacekeeping to reconstruction and development. Lastly, he reiterated Nepal's commitment to the maintenance of international peace and security.

20. **Ms. Rafi** (Pakistan) said that peacekeeping was an essential tool for maintaining international peace and security. While ceasefires were central to any peacekeeping operation, it was often difficult to secure compliance with the relevant agreements without a robust and capable military presence on the ground, as well as robust rules of engagement applied uniformly across the mission.

21. She emphasized that the Security Council mandate for the conduct of a peacekeeping operation must be clear, realistic and achievable. It was not acceptable to withdraw any peacekeeping mission prematurely, before it had completed the tasks assigned to it, regardless of any political or financial considerations.

22. While her delegation acknowledged the important role of multinational forces under the command of lead nations or organizations, it considered that the transfer of functions from such forces to United Nations peacekeeping missions should be even more seamless. To that end, the contingents deployed in multinational forces should later be incorporated in the structure of United Nations peacekeeping missions. The United Nations should encourage, perhaps through the creation of a trust fund, the participation of contingents from those countries that could not deploy troops solely for participation in multinational forces but would be prepared to do so provided that they also participated in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

23. In many parts of the world, peacekeeping was becoming broader in scope and more complex. In addition to the military aspects of peacekeeping, crucial though they were, a whole host of other tasks needed to be addressed, including the facilitation of humanitarian assistance, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), support for the rule of law, electoral assistance, monitoring of human rights violations and the creation of the conditions necessary for economic reconstruction. Civilian police and civilian expertise also had a crucial role to play in conducting such activities.

24. The success of any DDR programme depended on its design, financing and, above all, local ownership. Local culture and religious practices and customs should also be taken into account. The international community must not repeat the mistake made in Liberia, when peacekeeping provided only a respite before the situation in the country worsened again.

25. She also wished to address the issue of political will. Peacekeeping operations should be assessed based on the potential return from the time and resources invested in them. United Nations peacekeeping activities must be more commensurate with the seriousness of the threat to international peace and security.

26. The empowerment of women was a precondition for rebuilding a society after a conflict. She called for special attention to be paid, in the conduct and planning of any peacekeeping operation, to the needs of women and children and to the involvement of women in such operations.

27. Pakistan also played the role of host to one of the oldest peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). In that connection, she trusted that the Organization would give full and serious consideration to the proposals recently presented to the General Assembly by President Musharraf for the utilization of an expanded UNMOGIP to promote peace and strengthen confidence-building in Kashmir. A just solution to the Kashmir dispute based on the resolutions of the Security Council would prove that the United Nations was seriously committed to maintaining international peace and security.

28. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) said that he associated himself with the statement made by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Since the first field operation in 1948, United Nations peacekeeping operations had expanded dramatically, becoming increasingly complex and multidimensional. A "one-size-fits-all" peacekeeping model could no longer ensure sustained success.

29. Ceasefires remained central to any peacekeeping operation. Enforcing those ceasefires required a rapid, well-equipped and credible peacekeeping presence in the theatre of operations at the critical start of a mission. Experience had shown that peacekeepers supported by robust and uniform rules of engagement and a clear mandate were better able to cope with attempts to break a ceasefire. The experience of using a well-trained United Nations peacekeeping force under a congruous mandate to replace a rapidly deployed

multinational force in Bunia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to replace a regional force in Liberia, had shown the effectiveness of that approach.

30. All States must contribute to strengthening the peacekeeping capacity of the United Nations. The quick deployment of a well-equipped and effective European Union force led by France in the Democratic Republic of the Congo could be showcased as an excellent rapid stabilization strategy. When a phased and smooth transition to United Nations authority was desired, the method used in Timor-Leste, where a core Australian force maintained a presence under new command, could be used as an example. Taking the recent cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations as a model, countries might be able to make a greater contribution in a number of areas, such as helping to replenish the strategic deployment stocks at Brindisi, taking part in the multidimensional training of United Nations and regional peacekeepers, enhancing African peacekeeping capacity, financing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes and enhancing United Nations research and development capacities.

31. Bangladesh paid close attention to the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel. The tragic bomb attacks in Baghdad in August 2003 and the brutal murder of two peacekeepers of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), also in 2003, had made the issue more urgent. Bangladesh welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) and the renewed focus on universalizing and strengthening the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

32. There was a growing need for multidimensional peacekeeping operations. In that connection, the need for a comprehensive strategy to meet tasks such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reforms, restoration of the rule of law or economic reconstruction could not be overemphasized, nor could the forthcoming publication of a Handbook on Multidimensional Peacekeeping, the field guide on gender mainstreaming and an HIV testing policy paper for peacekeepers.

33. He welcomed the strengthening of the Best Practices Unit. Bangladesh, which currently presided over the Committee on Information, intended to coordinate cooperation between that Unit and the Department of Public Information in the dissemination of information on the various aspects of complex peace operations.

34. Remarking on the significant progress made in enhancing the rapid deployment capacity of the United Nations, he said that many troop-contributing countries had already committed high levels of rapid deployment capability in the United Nations Standby Arrangements System (UNSAS) for military and civilian personnel. It was now the turn of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which should match that commitment with rapid planning and strategic sea/airlift capabilities. He encouraged the Secretariat to continue the good practice of using Integrated Mission Task Forces in multidimensional operations.

35. He could not overemphasize the importance of training peacekeepers. Bangladesh was keen to contribute to the Generic Training Module Project. While many developing countries such as Bangladesh had the experience and capability to provide well-trained and well-equipped troops, their underrepresentation in senior leadership positions in the field as well as in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations deprived the United Nations of an opportunity to benefit from their expertise. That situation must be remedied.

36. **Mr. Sangsnit** (Thailand) said that there was still violent conflict and tension in some regions of the world. Challenges to security and the unfulfilled aspirations of the common man had unfortunately raised doubts about the resilience and effectiveness of multilateralism and therefore of the United Nations. However, one area in which multilateralism had met with some success was peacekeeping, for instance in Timor-Leste, Sierra Leone and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thailand believed that United Nations peacekeeping operations should never replace conflict-resolution initiatives by the parties concerned and should not become a permanent feature anywhere. Each peacekeeping operation should therefore have a well-planned "entry strategy" and a clear "exit strategy".

37. Valuable suggestions had been made in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/57/767). On several occasions, after the adoption of a mandate, a number of troop-contributing countries had been unable to act in a timely manner because of the time frame established for rapid deployment, which

was 30 days, or 90 days in the case of complex operations. He reiterated the need for collaboration between those who planned, authorized and managed peacekeeping operations and those who carried them out. The Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries should conduct substantive and meaningful consultations in all areas of their cooperation.

38. As a troop-contributing country, Thailand was gravely concerned about the continuing accidents, attacks and other acts of violence against United Nations peacekeepers. It urged that a clear set of guidelines for precaution and protection for both civilian and military personnel should be put in place as a matter of urgency. It welcomed the new focus of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on providing national and regional training centres and fully supported bilateral and regional training arrangements between Member States.

39. The reluctance of some developing countries to contribute troops and civilian personnel was probably connected with delays in reimbursements. His delegation urged all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. It hoped to see practical measures for rapid reimbursement in place before long and it therefore supported the creation of a working group to consider that issue.

40. The Special Committee had made other valuable suggestions which deserved consideration. They included quick-impact projects and mine-action proposals. Thailand already had experience of such activities.

41. **Ms. Mangray** (Guyana) said that alternative approaches to conflict resolution must be found, based on a firm commitment to maintaining world peace and security. The recent attack on the headquarters of the United Nations in Baghdad must not cause Member States to be discouraged, but rather to renew their efforts to strengthen the United Nations as it responded to the new economic and political realities.

42. In a world so divided by conflict, peacekeeping and peace-building had become urgent priorities. Their success demanded the commitment of both human and financial resources. Seen in the perspective of the hundreds of billions of dollars spent each year on armaments, the yearly cost of peacekeeping operations, in the order of $2.17 billion, was a relatively small price to pay.

43. Increased investment in preventive diplomacy could yield great returns. In the words of Confucius, "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". Peacekeeping operations were now more complex, and the United Nations might even be called upon to help to reconstruct entire States. Its responsibility for preserving global stability was increasing.

44. The Secretary-General had highlighted six areas of priority attention which continued to be critically important to the overall success of peacekeeping operations. Her delegation supported the efforts being made to enhance the capacity and performance of the United Nations.

45. It was increasingly recognized that regional organizations might be best suited to taking a leading role in finding solutions. Common interests, history, culture and language could combine to facilitate agreement. However, such organizations might not have a sufficient mandate or sufficient resources to play a meaningful role. Her delegation encouraged continued cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the promotion of peace and called for enhanced international support for those efforts.

46. It was essential to move away from the "fire-brigade" approach in order to consolidate the environment in which peace could flourish. Her delegation looked forward to cooperating with the Fourth Committee and with the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in the search for new ways to strengthening world peace and security.

47. **Mr. Nambiar** (India) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. The changing nature and growing complexity and scope of peacekeeping operations over the past 10 years had led to a dramatic transformation, even something of a revolution, in their principles and practices. Peacekeeping operations had become multidimensional, with multinational operations authorized by the United Nations and even some operations that were outside the purview of the United Nations. A significant development was reliance on regional and subregional organizations.

48. For many years, India had been stating unambiguously that the burden of peacekeeping should be shared equally between the North and the South. It had been heartened to note that that sentiment had found resonance in paragraph 36 of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/58/323). His delegation fully agreed that collective responses more than ever required cooperation across the globe.

49. His delegation fully agreed with the conclusions of the Secretary-General on assisting war-torn societies in their transition to peace. There must be greater coordination among different parts of the Secretariat, peacekeeping missions, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure a smoother transition to post-conflict development. A hasty retreat could jeopardize the gains achieved by a peacekeeping operation. Proper planning for phased withdrawal was a sine qua non, and must form an integral part of peacekeeping planning.

50. His delegation also agreed with the need for coordination and consultation with internal and external partners to support the rule of law aspects of peacekeeping operations, as had been the case in Liberia. It hoped that lessons learned and best practices would be followed in future peacekeeping missions.

51. The key to the success or failure of peacekeeping operations depended heavily on meaningful and real consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries. In that connection, his delegation supported the proposals in paragraph 52 of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/57/767).

52. His delegation had been heartened to note that the system of strategic deployment stocks was fully functional. It would be interested to hear more from the Secretariat on the possibility of utilizing a percentage of those stocks to assist troop-contributing countries facing difficulties in self-sustainment.

53. India continued to see training as an important input in peacekeeping and commended the Secretariat for the emphasis on pre-deployment training targeted at those who were about to deploy on mission. Because of the increasing complexity of peacekeeping operations, it wished to emphasize the importance of training the senior leadership of missions. In that connection, he should not neglect to mention India's Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping, which was conducting a training module for emerging troop-contributing countries.

54. His delegation wished to register its appreciation for recent efforts made by the Secretariat to process the claims of troop-contributing countries, but also to urge the Secretariat to process the backlog of claims expeditiously. As the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for 2003 (A/58/16) stated, the objective should be to make reimbursements for troop costs and contingent-owned equipment within four months.

55. **Mr. Fallouh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Peacekeeping operations were a very important instrument for achieving the United Nations purpose of maintaining international peace and security. They were entrusted with the vitally important role of lessening tensions and promoting the settlement of conflicts, as well as creating the conditions for post-conflict peace-building. In recent years, peacekeeping operations had proved effective in various areas and had made the transition from the traditional function of monitoring ceasefire agreements to fulfilling more multifaceted and complex objectives, including in the area of restoring institutions of governance. His delegation noted the success of United Nations peacekeeping activities in many countries, and expressed the hope that peacekeeping operations would be extended to conflict regions that had been neglected, in particular Somalia.

56. Peacekeeping operations were not, however, an alternative to long-term peace settlements, but rather temporary measures that served to prevent further escalation of conflict. It was important that such operations should not go beyond the established framework of their mandates and that once under way, they should abide by the basic principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States. Such operations must also be carried out within specific time frames.

57. Furthermore, peacekeeping operations in the Middle East that had been authorized for a short transitional period had lasted for more than 50 years, yet the prospects for achieving peace there remained distant, given that Israel stubbornly refused to comply with Security Council resolutions and continued its policy of aggression, expansion of settlements and

reprisals against defenceless civilian populations living under the yoke of occupation.

58. Israel's barbarous attack on Syrian territory in October 2003 was yet another example of its flagrant violation of the most important principles of the Charter of the United Nations and posed a threat to regional and international peace and security. There was no justification for such actions, and it was solely due to the great restraint shown by the Syrian Arab Republic that further escalation of the conflict had been averted and the region spared from an outbreak of violence.

59. His delegation reiterated its commitment to the general principles for the carrying out of peacekeeping operations and highlighted the need to take additional steps to provide security for peacekeeping personnel. It also attached great importance to effective trilateral cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries in the planning and organization of missions.

60. **Mr. Baltazar** (Mozambique) said that peacekeeping operations were a very pressing issue for most developing countries, especially those in Africa, a continent which continued to face situations that required action in the area of peacemaking, peace-building and peacekeeping.

61. The success of any United Nations peacekeeping operation lay in cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional arrangements, as well as other international bodies, since such cooperation could enhance the capacity of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security. Particular attention should be paid to the existing regional and subregional arrangements in the light of their familiarity with a given conflict situation. Such knowledge could further the process of developing and implementing specific United Nations peacekeeping operations.

62. As Mr. Joaquim Chissano, President of the Republic of Mozambique and Chairman of the African Union, had stated in his address before the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, the peoples of Africa believed now more than ever before in the strength of their will, cohesion and unity and they believed in learning from past experience, good and bad, to restore peace and stability and generate wealth and prosperity throughout the continent. It was in that context that the African Union had provided for a Peace and Security Council within its structure as an organ responsible for conflict prevention, management and resolution; it was designed to enhance collaboration between the African Union and the United Nations on peacekeeping matters in Africa.

63. While it recognized the achievements of the United Nations peacekeeping missions, his delegation believed that, in post-conflict peacekeeping operations, effective cooperation and collaboration among all stakeholders involved in the peace process was of paramount importance. Indeed, the optimal, timely and coordinated engagement of the United Nations, regional arrangements, neighbouring countries, civil society, the Government, the opposition and other interested parties would determine the success of a peacekeeping operation, given that it would help to create an environment conducive to mutual confidence-building. As Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, had rightly pointed out, there was a need to intensify the United Nations focus on Africa and African peacekeeping capacities and, in particular, to provide more flexible financial assistance and support for training.

64. Traditional thinking about peacekeeping operations generally emphasized military and political aspects of conflict without taking proper account of one of its main consequences: the weakening of government institutions, particularly those concerned with the rule of law. Bearing in mind that reality, the need to strengthen institutions such as the police, the judiciary and the legislature should be considered in any planning for a peacekeeping operation. Once elections resulting from a peacekeeping operation had been held, any matters left unresolved during the peacekeeping process must be pursued by the new authorities. The departure of peacekeeping forces must not leave a vacuum in such sensitive areas. The consolidation of democratic values and the creation of a society based on the rule of law also required strong institutions.

65. For peacekeeping operations to be sustainable, the social and economic dimensions should be given as much attention as the political and military aspects. Past experience with peacekeeping operations had demonstrated that the failure to address fully the issue of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration could be a source of instability. There was therefore a need to work towards the social and economic reintegration of

demobilized soldiers, returnees and internally displaced persons. That required the development of specific programmes such as "arms for hoes", a Mozambican initiative to promote the voluntary handing over of weapons in exchange for productive tools. It was also important to teach productive skills through vocational training programmes.

66. In conclusion, he said that the key to the success of any given peacekeeping operation was the political will of the parties concerned, as well as an adequate combination of the crucial aspects of a peacekeeping operation, some of which he had highlighted. That had been clearly demonstrated by the experience of the Mozambican people, who had decided to set aside all the differences that had divided them for so many years and work together for peace, stability, tolerance, reconciliation and democracy. That political will had been a decisive factor in the success of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique.

67. **Ms. Miller** (Jamaica) said that various challenges to the maintenance of international peace had arisen during the past year; that had been reflected in the expansion of operations and missions authorized by the international community to respond to increasing instances of conflict. Peacekeeping operations had been successfully accomplished in some areas, and the peace process strengthened in others. The same period, however, had seen the emergence of violent and often debilitating conflicts, mainly on the African continent. The prevention of conflict, in particular armed conflict, must continue to be an integral part of efforts to strengthen peace and security. In that regard, her delegation supported General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 18 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict.

68. Responsibility for the settlement of conflicts and the search for peace continued to rest with the entire international community. In order to achieve effective peacekeeping operations, there was a need for a coordinated and timely response by the international community involving a wide range of partnerships. A first step in that process must be a credible, clear and realistic mandate for each peacekeeping operation. Action by the international community should be taken in a transparent, equitable and collective manner and must be bolstered by adequate human and financial resources.

69. Noting the progress made in the six priority areas, she said that with respect to rapid deployment, her delegation welcomed the ongoing process of consultations between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat. Her delegation looked forward to the discussions on a number of issues pertaining to rapid deployment during the forthcoming meeting of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

70. The enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity was a significant aspect of peacekeeping, particularly in the regional context. The effectiveness of that capacity was dependent on continued assistance by the international community in the form of effective logistical and financial support, as well as training. Her delegation recognized the significant strides being made by African regional organizations in peacekeeping and, in that regard, commended ECOWAS for its leadership efforts to ensure peace and stability in Africa, including in Liberia.

71. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants was a critical aspect of complex peacekeeping operations. Her delegation fully agreed with the assessment that the successful implementation of that programme depended on proper and sustained funding. It supported the steps being taken to improve standards of conduct, as well as efforts by the Secretariat and individual missions to prevent instances of sexual exploitation and abuse. It supported the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to standardize training material and organize training courses for all categories of personnel involved in a mission, and looked forward to the detailed report on that matter, including the new integrated approach to training. She noted with satisfaction the efforts being made to enhance the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit, including the proposed launch of an online database, as well as the completion in the near future of the Handbook on Multidimensional Peacekeeping.

72. Her delegation welcomed the positive efforts being made to mainstream gender issues into peacekeeping operations, including through the publication of relevant manuals. It looked forward to the early filling of the post of gender adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and highlighted the need for equitable geographical and gender representation in posts both at Headquarters and within field missions. All peacekeepers should be

afforded the best safety and security possible, inter alia, through the implementation of the relevant international conventions and Security Council resolution 1502 (2003). In conclusion, she said that progress in the area of peacekeeping operations continued to be ongoing and built on the experience gained in the deployment and operations of each individual mission. The approach to peacekeeping must continue to be dynamic and adaptable, particularly given the complex and multidimensional challenges facing peacekeepers.

73. **Mr. Scott** (United States of America) expressed his delegation's profound sadness at the tragic deaths in Baghdad of Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and his colleagues. As long as terrorists sought out more and more vulnerable targets, humanitarian personnel would be increasingly in danger. In that regard, it was essential that the United Nations should work to increase its access to information and intelligence to prevent such attacks and to enhance the security of United Nations personnel.

74. The current meeting was taking place only two weeks after the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). He applauded the leading role of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in efforts to bring peace to Liberia, as well as the valuable contribution of the ECOWAS Mission in Liberia (ECOMIL) in laying the groundwork for the United Nations Mission.

75. The Mission had begun well, with the handover of authority from ECOWAS to UNMIL. The security situation was beginning to stabilize; that was crucial for the demobilization and disarmament of combatants from all rebel groups and for humanitarian aid to be delivered to the Liberian people. The strategic defence stocks that had been positioned in advance in Sierra Leone had played an important part in the rapid mobilization of the Mission.

76. The United Nations Mission in Liberia would be the world's largest peacekeeping force. It would help to create a peaceful environment in which the roots of democracy could take hold. There would also be more than 1,000 civilian police officers in Liberia. The large scale of the Mission was needed to address the serious security and other challenges left in the wake of Charles Taylor's presidency. The destabilizing role played in the region by Liberia under Taylor had ended with the deployment of the Mission.

77. The United States had sent 75 civilian police officers to train and advise the interim Liberian police force. Security Council resolution 1509 (2003) was the first resolution concerning peacekeeping matters to provide for the revitalization of the judiciary and the penal system. As the Panel on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations had recognized, civilian police alone could not bring about a society built on the rule of law. Deficiencies in the courts and the penal system must also be addressed. That would require bilateral and multilateral assistance.

78. Prior to the deployment of the Mission, the United States had provided nearly $26 million in logistical support and equipment to the ECOMIL forces. In addition, it expected to provide approximately $8.5 million for the Mission's civilian police contingent during the first year of deployment. Furthermore, it would send a team to Liberia to develop an effective programme to limit the spread of small arms, as well as an expert in weapons destruction.

79. Despite its enormous financial commitment with respect to the establishment of democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq, his country remained committed to Liberia, since it believed that a democratic Liberia would be a stabilizing force in the region.

80. He commended the activities of the Civilian Police Division, which for the first time had reached the staffing level recommended by the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. Particular attention should be paid to the Civilian Police Division during the independent evaluation in late 2004 of progress made by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations towards achieving the recommendations set forth in the Brahimi report.

81. Welcoming the establishment of gender adviser positions in accordance with Security Council 1325 (2000), he pointed out that, on 29 October 2003, the United States, which was then presiding over the Security Council, had called for an open meeting to discuss progress in implementing that resolution.

82. In conclusion, he said that HIV/AIDS was a major health concern for both peacekeepers and local residents, with potentially serious implications for the effectiveness of a given mission. The Committee had

encouraged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to establish a policy of voluntary confidential counselling and testing. In that regard, he noted the recent circulation by the Department of a first draft of such a policy.

83. **Mr. Al-Otaibi** (Kuwait) endorsed the statement made by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. The functions of peacekeeping operations had expanded compared with the past: today, they included humanitarian assistance, monitoring respect for human rights, maintaining law and order, building State structures and observing elections. Those operations reflected the commitment of Member States to the concept of collective security.

84. In order to enable peacekeeping operations to fulfil their mandates, it was necessary to take a fresh approach to a number of questions, including the functions and tasks of peacekeeping operations; consultations between the Security Council and troop contributors; the role of the United Nations in early warning and preventive diplomacy; Member States' contributions to peacekeeping operations; and staff training.

85. The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), which had been deployed in Kuwait from 1991, had contributed to the reduction of tension on the border and the observance of the ceasefire regime. From 1993 until the end of the Mission's mandate, Kuwait had paid more than two thirds of its budget and had endeavoured to remove any obstacles to its activities; that had been reflected in the Security Council resolution. His delegation wished to express appreciation to all States that had deployed specialists and troops for UNIKOM.

86. His delegation trusted that, with the overthrow of the former regime, Iraqis would overcome their current difficulties and restore security, sovereignty and stability. It was to be hoped that relations between Iraq and Kuwait would be re-established based on the principles of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect.

87. Lastly, his delegation wished to express gratitude to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations for its efforts to improve and modernize peacekeeping operations in all regions.

88. **Mr. Tekle** (Eritrea) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. It appreciated the noble intention of using regional mechanisms in regional conflict resolution and peacekeeping and the efforts made to that end. However, it should be understood that, in some cases, United Nations political and material support would be critical to the success of any regional peace initiative. It must always be recalled that the Security Council bore the main responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, and any other efforts could only be supplementary.

89. Peacekeeping operations had become ever more complex. It was thus important to recognize the need for a broader conception of peacekeeping and to make the appropriate legal, organizational and administrative adjustments in future operations.

90. Among the numerous global problems requiring priority attention was HIV/AIDS, which had become a serious issue for sending countries and host countries alike, as well as for relations between the United Nations and host countries. Eritrea was one of the countries that had expressed grave concern about the lack of provisions on HIV/AIDS in status-of-forces agreements. Clearly, Ethiopia could not allow those it saved from bullets to die of AIDS. However, his delegation noted with satisfaction that the protracted negotiations with the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) had yielded positive results in that they had contributed to the development of a cooperation framework between the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and DPKO and to the establishment of a joint HIV/AIDS Task Force within the Mission, which had produced the UNMEE HIV/AIDS Programme.

91. The safety and well-being of United Nations personnel in any peacekeeping operation must be ensured at all times. It was bad enough when the lives of United Nations personnel were threatened by terrorists, but it became a very serious matter when violence against peacekeepers was being committed by the military personnel of host countries. Several United Nations reports indicated that Ethiopian military personnel had endangered the lives of United Nations civilian and military personnel, and the Secretary-General had reported thereon to the Security Council. The international community must not tolerate such lawlessness and irresponsibility.

92. **Ms. de Armas** (Cuba) said that her delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by

the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. For the United Nations, peacekeeping operations were an important means of fulfilling its obligations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security. When conducting such operations, there must be strict observance of such principles of international law as respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. The fundamental principles of peacekeeping operations, including consent of the countries, impartiality, non-use of force except in self-defence, clarity of mandates, goals and administrative structures and guaranteed financing, must also be scrupulously respected.

93. Her delegation attached great importance to the reaffirmation of those principles, particularly given the development of such new concepts as "humanitarian intervention" and the "culture of protection", which very clearly ran counter to the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. That did not mean that the international community must do nothing in the face of genocide and other crimes. On the contrary, decisive and urgent action must be taken to achieve just and lasting settlements to emerging conflicts.

94. The capacity to take measures to resolve conflicts was not restricted to the Security Council. The General Assembly, too, must exercise its powers under the Charter. There was no place there for hegemonic behaviour, and all countries had the right to vote.

95. The United Nations needed dynamic mechanisms to enable it to proceed, as soon as possible after the adoption of a resolution on the conduct of a peacekeeping operation, to the deployment of the operation in the field. At the same time, the requirements for absolute transparency and strict compliance with the principles of Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter must be respected.

96. Her delegation shared the concern about the delays in the reimbursement of countries that provided troops and equipment. Those delays could create serious economic difficulties, particularly for developing countries.

97. Peacekeeping operations as such could not be regarded as a means of achieving the definitive settlement of conflicts, the roots of which lay essentially in economic, political and social problems. Peace was not possible without development.

98. Lastly, the Security Council's negative practice of applying double standards and discriminatory criteria had led to the existence in the world of privileged regions, "forgotten" regions and regions in which it was not possible to change anything because of the use of the right of veto. Until that situation changed, the goal of establishing lasting peace throughout the world would remain a utopia.

99. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that Kazakhstan strongly condemned the terrorist attack against the United Nations headquarters in Iraq on 19 August 2003. It firmly supported the efforts of the United Nations to strengthen its peacekeeping capacity and reaffirmed its view that the Organization must enhance its preventive deployment and disarmament strategies. Early action by the Organization was needed to prevent the outbreak and spread of new conflicts. To that end, it was necessary to establish an appropriate comprehensive preventive mechanism and to continue the search for ways to respond effectively to modern complex conflicts, which often required peacekeeping measures to be taken, along with action for development.

100. In countries emerging from civil strife, the creation or rebuilding of civil society was a crucial long-term commitment, essential to the establishment and consolidation of democracy. Democratic institutions and principles must be embedded within a self-sustaining civil society. In conflict-prone regions, the role of policies to strengthen security was important, as minimum standards in that regard were a prerequisite for development; peacekeeping operations led not only to political progress, but also to social and economic progress.

101. Recent crises in various parts of the world had proven conclusively that it was imperative to further strengthen the authority of the United Nations and to increase the responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security. His delegation supported the intention of the Secretariat and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to pay due attention to offers regarding participation in peacekeeping operations within the framework of the Standby Arrangements System. Kazakhstan had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations concerning its

contribution to the United Nations system of preparatory activities. It remained firmly committed to its peacekeeping obligations and continued to take steps to enhance the peacekeeping capacity of the United Nations.

102. **Mr. Šahović** (Serbia and Montenegro) said that in recent years there had been an increase in the number of peacekeeping operations with complex mandates which included difficult and politically delicate tasks of society-building. Further efforts were therefore needed to develop comprehensive strategies for complex peacekeeping operations. His delegation believed that the priorities should be disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the rule of law and security sector reform. Those interrelated areas were of critical importance to conflict resolution and the achievement of long-term peace and stability. The involvement of peacekeeping operations in those areas should be based on clear Security Council mandates in order to preclude any ambiguities that could undermine the credibility and success of peacekeeping operations.

103. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes must be carefully planned, taking into account the specifics of the situation on the ground and the special needs of women combatants and child soldiers. Secure financing for implementation must also be provided. Effective disarmament was critical to the success of such programmes and to the achievement of stability. The case of the Province of Kosovo and Metohija corroborated that view. According to a recent study commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) there were about 330,000 illegal weapons there. That was one of the reasons for the volatile security situation in the area.

104. The establishment of the rule of law was of paramount importance for sustainable peace and stability. There should therefore be a strong focus on the further strengthening of that aspect of complex peacekeeping operations. The recommendations of the task force of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security had identified sources of expertise within and outside the United Nations. Judicial experts played an important role in peacekeeping operations. The early deployment of a sufficient number of international judges and prosecutors, as well as corrections officers, was of great importance for the establishment of the rule of law. Again, the case of Kosovo and Metohija provided an example: at present it had only 15 international judges and 10 international prosecutors, handling only 3 per cent of criminal cases. The insufficient number of international judges and prosecutors had led to a culture of impunity related, inter alia, to ethnically-motivated violence and organized crime.

105. Cooperation with Member States on security sector reform must be stepped up. In order to improve the performance of complex peacekeeping operations, it was important to make more active use of best practices by expanding cooperation with international and regional organizations.

106. While much had been done to strengthen the cooperation between the Secretariat, troop-contributing countries and the Security Council, there was more that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations could do to improve the flow of information towards the troop-contributing countries. His Government had on numerous occasions emphasized the importance of cooperation between a peacekeeping operation and its host country, since such cooperation was a precondition for the successful discharge of the mandate of such an operation. Cooperation should in all cases be institutionalized through status-of-forces and status-of-mission agreements. There should also be better cooperation between the various parts of the United Nations system involved in peacekeeping, both at Headquarters and in the field.

107. Post-conflict societies were so fragile that initial positive results should not justify the reduction or withdrawal of the international presence. The phasing-out of a mission should be based on a realistic assessment of the level of stability achieved.

108. In conclusion, he emphasized that Serbia and Montenegro remained committed to United Nations peacekeeping operations. In addition to joining the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET), Serbia and Montenegro had joined the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and would participate in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). As the host country to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), it would continue to assist the mission in fulfilling its mandate.

109. **Mr. Mavroyiannis** (Cyprus) said that his delegation fully aligned itself with the statement made by the representative of Italy on behalf of the European

Union. According to the reports of the Secretary-General, the northern part of Cyprus, which was occupied by Turkish troops, was currently the most militarized area in the world. The partial lifting by the occupying Power of movement restrictions across the buffer zone had demonstrated the lack of any truth in the argument of Turkey and the local administration that the two communities were unable to live together. Even though such a measure was not a substitute for comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem, the complete lack of friction between Greek and Turkish Cypriots since its introduction proved that that position had been resilient for so long because of the intransigence of the Turkish Cypriot leadership and the Turkish Government. The Greek Cypriot side, which appreciated the value of easing movement restrictions in an effort to bring the two communities closer together, had proposed an increase in the number of crossing points. That initiative had yet to find a response from the Turkish Cypriot leadership.

110. Since April 2003, the Government of Cyprus had been implementing a set of measures aimed at improving the living conditions of the Turkish Cypriots and making available to them benefits to which all other Cypriots were entitled. The European Commission had also been developing measures aimed at the economic advancement of the Turkish Cypriot community. In the positive climate created by such measures, and in line with the constructive stance of the Greek Cypriot side, President Papadopoulos had announced from the podium of the General Assembly that the Government of Cyprus, unilaterally and within the following two months, would begin mine clearance in the buffer zone in cooperation with the United Nations and with the financial assistance of the European Union. Cyprus would also begin to destroy a considerable number of anti-personnel mines. The Turkish Cypriot leadership had not only failed to display similar political will and wisdom, but had engaged in additional provocation: the ongoing advance of the positions of the Turkish occupation army along the ceasefire line. However, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) had not helped to preserve the status quo. The lack of tangible results in the attempts to resolve the crisis had once again illustrated the need to reinforce the role of UNFICYP and make its capacity consistent with its mandate and responsibilities.

111. If the response of the Turkish Cypriot leadership at the political level had matched the overwhelming desire of the Turkish Cypriots themselves to achieve a settlement, Cyprus would currently be moving towards membership of the European Union as a united country.

112. The fact that the Republic of Cyprus contributed one third of the budget of UNFICYP was indicative of its a commitment to keep it functioning unhindered for as long as there was no peace in Cyprus. Efforts by the leadership of the Turkish Cypriot community and the Government of Turkey to achieve a just and viable solution, in accordance with United Nations resolutions and international law, combined with the demilitarization proposals of the Republic of Cyprus, would heal the scars of the past, achieve common prosperity and build a stable and peaceful Eastern Mediterranean region.

113. **Ms. Al Aoui** (Morocco) said that since the end of the cold war, the concept of peacekeeping had changed to accommodate a variety of situations, internal conflicts involving foreign intervention, and clashes which involved massive violations of human rights. The prospect of giving peacekeepers more room for manoeuvre and initiative had been raised. Her delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that all members of the Organization should take part in peacekeeping operations.

114. The tragic events of 19 August 2003 and the deaths of two military observers from the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) showed the need to review the issue of protecting the safety of United Nations and related staff in peacekeeping operations.

115. Experience had shown that no more economies could be made in the complex matter of conflict prevention, crisis settlement, peacekeeping, peace-building and post-conflict consolidation of the rule of law. In that connection, her delegation agreed with the Secretary-General on the need for political will and a uniform concept of responsibility in the face of conflicts.

116. Her delegation would welcome any initiative aimed at strengthening peace-building capacity in Africa. For many years, Morocco had responded to calls from the United Nations to help peacekeeping operations on the African continent, in particular in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Moreover, it was prepared in principle to take part in peacekeeping

activities in Liberia, in response to an appeal from the Secretary-General.

117. She could not neglect to mention that it would be impossible to maintain international security without taking account of a new threat to all of mankind: the activities of international terrorist networks. Imagination and originality would be needed to develop suitable countermeasures.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.